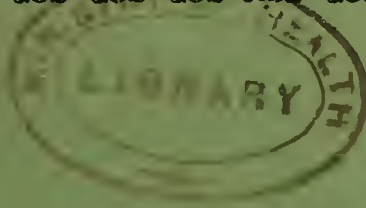


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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health
and Sanitary Inspector to the
Rural District Council of
Buckingham



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Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District of Buckingham.

For the Year ending 31st December, 1937.

Buckingham,
May, 1938.

To the Rural District Council of Buckingham.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting you with my fourteenth report and am glad to tell you the health of the district remains extraordinarily good.

The deaths are mainly among the elderly people due to senility, cancer and bronchitis. The Infantile mortality is high but this can be accounted for by the death of several premature children. Both the Birth and Death rates are lower than last year. I beg to thank you for your kindness and consideration.

1. General Statistics.

The area of the District is 54,543 acres, exclusive of the area covered with water, which amounts to 197 acres. The population of this District, estimated for mid year 1937 is 7,546.

At the Census of 1931 there were 2,052 inhabited houses, having an average number of 5.019 persons per house.

The rateable value of this District is £30,693, a penny rate brings in (£13.) This is a greatly reduced value owing to derating and extinguishment of the tithe rent charge. The inhabitants are chiefly engaged in agricultural pursuits, and as a consequence they lead an outdoor life, which is naturally a good influence on public health.

1a. Rainfall.

The rainfall for the past year amounted to 29.37 inches, this being 3.94 inches above the average. In 1936 the rainfall was 30.86 inches.

The number of rainy days in 1937 was 192 compared with 201 in 1936. The driest month was August with .63 inches, whilst the wettest month was February with 4.06 inches. Snow fell on 18 days and there was thunder on 18 days.

2. Extract from Vital Statistics as compiled by Registrar General.

Births	{	Legitimate	87	M. 43	F. 44	}	Birthrate 12.0 per 1,000.
		Illegitimate	4	1	3		
		Total	91	44	47		
Deaths	..		70	34	36	{	Deathrate 11.3 per 1,000
Crude Death Rate if C.F. 76=8.6.							

Number of women dying in or } From Sepsis 0
in consequence of childbirth } „ other causes 0

			M.	F.	
Still births	{	Legitimate	1	0	} 22 per 1,000 births.
		Illegitimate	1	0	
		<hr/>			
		Total		2	

Premature Births, 5.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age :

Legitimate, 7 ; illegitimate, 0 ; total 7 (77 per 1,000 births.)

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year which requires comment.

The birth rate is lower and the death rate lower than last year. Both are about the average for England and Wales which has a birth rate of 14.9 per 1,000 and a death rate of 11.3 per 1,000.

Suicides, 0.

S.F., 2.33 per 1,000 population.

3. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1937.

	Ages	Total Cases Notified		Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
		F.	M.		
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever Under	1—	1	—	1	—
	1—	—	—	—	—
	2—	—	—	—	—
	3—	1	—	1	—
	4—	2	1	3	—
	5—	11	8	18	—
	10—	7	4	1 home 10	—
	15—	1	1	1 home 2	—
	20—	2	2	4	—
	35—	1	—	1	—
	45—	—	—	—	—
	65—	—	—	—	—
	& over				
Diphtheria	15—	1	—	1	—
	20—	—	1	1	1
Enteric fever	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal fever	20—	1	—	1	—
	Total 1				
Pneumonia	2—	1	—	—	1
	5—	—	3	—	—
	10—	1	—	—	—
	20—	—	1	—	—
	35—	—	1	—	—
	65—	1	—	—	1
	Total 8 & over				
Erysipelas	35—	1	—	1	—
	45—	2	3	—	—
	Total 6				
Dysentery	65—	1	—	1	—
	& over			contracted away	

TUBERCULOSIS

AGE-PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
25-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65-upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total ..	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0

The infantile mortality for 1937 was 7 compared with 8 for the year 1936. This was due to death of 5 premature children. The birth-rate is 12 per 1,000 compared with 13.1 per 1,000 for 1936 ; and the death-rate is 11.3 per 1,000 compared with 12.7 per 1,000 for 1936. There was 1 death amongst illegitimate children under 12 months old, no deaths from diarrhoea amongst children under 2 years of age.

There were 0 deaths from Tuberculosis, compared with 2 last year, 1936.

There were 2 cases of Diphtheria notified, one of which died.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Cases			Vision unimpaired	Vision impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
	Notified	Treated					
		At Home	In Hospital				
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

3. Causes of Sickness.

There was very little sickness in the District during the year. There were 13 deaths from Cancer during the year, and 0 from Tuberculosis, and 4 deaths from Pneumonia. Most of the deaths were due to senility and changes in the arterial system. There were no deaths from accident and violence, and no suicides.

There has been a considerable increase in the number of scarlet fever cases notified during the last two years. This coincides with the transfer of cases to the new Fever Hospital at Linslade, but also with the centralization of school children, all senior scholars from the villages now coming to Buckingham Central School in buses.

SUMMARY (FOR REFERENCE) OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

4. Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) *General.*—Most of the Villages in this District have District Nurses, either resident or else supplied by the Bucks County Nursing Association. The Resident Nurses are helped by a grant from the County Council and the local authorities, kept up by local subscriptions and fees, and managed by a local committee.

The District Nurse of Buckingham is now affiliated to the Bucks County Association and Queens Nursing Association, and managed by local committee.

The Districts have been slightly altered giving one nurse to Padbury instead of Thornborough and one nurse only to the Borough of Buckingham. Maids Moreton, Dadford and Chackmore being done by Lillingstone Nurse and Gawcott, Thornborough, Thornton and Adstock by Padbury Nurse. Radclive has been given to Tingewick Nurse in place of Water Stratford which is now nursed from Westbury.

The local authorities have nothing to do with their management, but give them a subscription.

The resident Nurses are managed by the County Council through the County Nursing Association, and this latter body supervises and controls the work of the Local Nursing Committees.

(b) There is no provision in the District for nursing infectious disease, *e.g.*, measles, &c., in the home.

Midwives.—All the District Nurses do midwifery work, and charge fees which goes to the local committee, as the Nurses are paid a fixed salary. There are five midwives doing District work.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

There are no Maternity or Child Welfare Centres in the District. School children come to the District Nurses at fixed times for the treatment of minor ailments.

There are no Tuberculosis or Venereal Clinics.

The County Tuberculosis Medical Officer attends at Buckingham once a month to see patients from the District ; he also visits cases at their homes when necessary.

There is an orthopaedic clinic held in Buckingham monthly under direction of Mr. Girdlestone which children from the district can attend.

Hospitals Provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council.

(1.) *Tuberculosis.*—The Sanatorium for Buckinghamshire is situate at Peppard Common, Oxon, and is the joint Sanatorium for Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. It is financed by the Bucks County Council jointly with the Berkshire County Council.

(2.) *Maternity.*—There is no Maternity Hospital. Abnormal cases are admitted to Oxford and Buckingham at the discretion of the Doctors. An obstetrical Consultant, W. D. Sturrock, Esq., D.S.O., M.A., M.D., from Oxford can be obtained by applying to County Medical Officer.

(3.) *Children.*—There is no Hospital for Children alone.

(4.) *Fever.*—The Rural District of Buckingham has no infectious Hospital. All infectious cases are sent to the County Council Fever Hospital at Linslade, Leighton Buzzard.

(5.) There is an Eye Hospital in Oxford for the special treatment of all eye diseases.

(6.) *Other.*—There are no hospitals situated within the District, but patients are sent to the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford ; The Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury ; The Northampton General Hospital and the Buckingham Hospital.

There is no institutional provision in this District for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children.

Ambulance Facilities. (a.) A motor ambulance is stationed in Buckingham town under the control of the St. John Ambulance Association, and is available for the District for non-infectious and accident cases.

(b) Infectious diseases are conveyed by the Linslade Fever Ambulance.

6. Laboratory Work.

There are no arrangements in this District for Pathological or Bacteriological Examinations, but Tubercular sputa are sent to the County Health Office, Aylesbury, and examined by the County Tuberculosis Medical Officer. Diphtheria swabs are sent to the Clinical Research Association by doctors attending Diphtheria cases. Examination of swabs and Diphtheria antitoxin are paid by this Council. No application has been received for anti-influenza vaccine.

7. Sanitary Administration.

The Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889, was adopted on November 23rd, 1889, and the Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890, was adopted on February 28th, 1891. Regulations were made on 17th November, 1906, and are put into force for carrying out the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders of 1885 and 1889. Bye-laws are also in existence for the following: New streets and buildings, slaughter houses and the laying of water connections.

Immunisation is offered to all children by the School M.O.H. There has been no need at present for Measle Serum. No requests have been made.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH TABLE.

HOUSING

Number of new houses erected during the year :—	1937.
(a) Total	30
(b) As part of a municipal housing scheme	17

1. Unfit dwelling-houses.

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	145
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1925	
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	24
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	88
---	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit : (a) by owners	
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ..	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :— (a) by owners	
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ..	Nil

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or room having been rendered fit	Nil

New Housing Order.

A tabular summary of the work of the Sanitary department during the year, &c., will be found under the separate report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Your Inspector visits the Cowsheds in the District at regular periods, and pays particular attention to the sanitary conditions and cleanliness. In the event of any suspicious case of tuberculosis occurring in milking cows, your Council calls in a Veterinary Surgeon.

8. Public Health Staff.

The staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health (part time) and one Sanitary Inspector whole time and an assistant.

There have been no cases of Small-pox and no cases of Enteric Fever in the District.

There were no deaths from Measles or Scarlet Fever during the year and Measles which has been prevalent elsewhere did not attack the district.

The birth-rate is 1.10 per 1,000 lower than that of last year. There were no deaths due to child-birth, and no cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified. The death-rate of children under 1 year old is lower than last year.

I have to thank Mr. Pettipher for the statistics relating to weather, rainfall, etc.

I must thank Mr. Wateridge for his very willing and valuable help at all times.

I have the honour to remain,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. BRUCE PEARSON, L.R.C.P. & L.R.C.S., ED.

Medical Officer of Health.

Annual Report of the Sanitary Surveyor and Inspector.

For the Year ending December 31st, 1937.

BUCKINGHAM,

April 1938.

*To the Chairman and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Rural District
Council of Buckingham.*

I have great pleasure in submitting to you my eleventh Annual Report upon the Sanitary Works and road improvements carried out in your district during the year 1937, and in doing so would sincerely thank your Council, General Purposes and Housing Committees for the confidence and kind consideration given to my several reports and for the action taken thereon.

Housing Regulations.—Housing Inspections were carried out in various parishes and generally speaking the houses were clean, the tenants themselves carrying out internal renovation. Notices were served on the owners of various houses requiring the carrying out of structural and other repairs.

A Public Inquiry into Slum Clearance was held on October 14th, when 8 Clearance Orders were considered, 1 at Westbury, 2 at Stowe, 2 at Steeple Claydon, 2 at Edgcott and 1 at Twyford. These involved 18 houses occupied by 43 persons, and in each case the Clearance Orders were confirmed by the Minister of Health.

New Buildings.—13 new houses were completed during the year by private enterprise. 5 houses at Akeley, 2 at Maids Moreton, 6 at Steeple Claydon and 4 at Tingewick were completed for your Council during the year, those at Akeley and Tingewick being for re-housing purposes.

In the parishes of Steeple Claydon, Leckhampstead and Chackmore the erection of houses was commenced, the number of houses involved being 41. In the two latter parishes the houses were for re-housing purposes, whilst in the former parish the houses were for re-housing, the abatement of overcrowding and to be let at economic rents. The buildings were inspected during the various stages of erection to ensure compliance with your Building Byelaws.

Cowsheds and Dairies.—During the year 216 inspections of cowsheds and dairies have been carried out. Many defects were found which have been remedied whilst new buildings have been constructed and others reconstructed.

Slaughter.—The Slaughter houses in the district were frequently visited, although comparatively little slaughtering is now carried out. The slaughter houses and butcher's shops were kept in a clean condition and no notices were found necessary. The meat inspected was generally of good quality, and very little was ordered to be destroyed. 17 Slaughtermen are registered under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Infectious Disease.—42 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year this being an increase of 20 over the previous year. 40 of these cases were removed to the Grove Hospital, 2 being isolated at home. The necessary disinfection was carried out and disinfectants supplied. Particular attention was given to contacts engaged in the milk industry, notification being given to any milk factories to which milk was supplied from any premises where a case of infectious disease had occurred.

Factories, Workshops and Bakehouses.—Inspections were made of these premises during the year and general conditions were found to be satisfactory.

Petroleum.—Twenty-two licences were issued for the storage of Petroleum, this number being comprised of 17 renewal licences and 5 new licences. One licence was issued for the storage of Carbide of Calcium. The methods of storage are satisfactory and no alterations call for special report.

Sewers and Sewage Disposal.—The whole of the Sewers in the district have been maintained in good condition. Weather conditions and the difficulty of obtaining ground for the disposal of sludge has in some cases delayed the cleaning of ditches and tanks but as far as possible this work has been carried out periodically. Attention has been particularly given to works, the effluent from which discharges into rivers and streams. In several parishes sewage and sewage disposal schemes are contemplated.

Water Supplies.—The water supplies of the majority of villages were well maintained. As a result of chemical and bacteriological examinations it was found that the Steeple Claydon

water supply was unfit for drinking purposes. As a result a Chlorination Plant was installed, and during the period when the supply was not in use water was carted from Twyford and Padbury. The condition of the water is now satisfactory but the quantity of water available is low, and it has been necessary to make the supply available only at certain times of the day.

From October 1st, water supplies in this district have been under the control of the Bucks Water Board, although maintenance work has been carried out by your Council with the authority of the Board. The Board's scheme has been commenced, but some time will elapse before work is commenced in this district.

Refuse Collection.—Refuse collections have been made in twenty-seven parishes during the year and the service is greatly appreciated by the inhabitants.

In conclusion I beg to thank the Chairman and Members of your Council for their support and confidence and the officers for their kind assistance in the discharge of my duties.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ERNEST E. WATERIDGE, A.R.S.A.N.I.

BUCKINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1937

GENERAL.

Number of Inspections for all purposes	..	..	..	2147
Number of Complaints received	..	..	..	25
Nuisances detected without complaint	..	..	..	154
Notices served informal	..	..	..	142
Nuisances abated by persons responsible	..	..	..	138

HOUSE NUISANCES.

Roofs repaired	..	..	..	..	25
Spouts cleaned and repaired	..	..	..	..	67
Overcrowding abated	..	..	..	..	—
Dirty Houses cleansed	..	..	..	..	—
Other house defects remedied	..	..	..	..	70

DRAINS, W.C.'s, &c.

Drains cleansed, repaired or ventilated	..	..	..	4
New drains laid	..	..	..	47
W.C.'s constructed	..	..	..	22
W.C.'s repaired	..	..	..	—
Earth closets or privies constructed and repaired	..	..	..	—

WATER SUPPLY.

Water Certificates granted	..	..	..	..	7
Wells cleansed and repaired	..	..	..	..	11

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Number on Register	..	..	..	..	11
Number of inspections	..	..	..	..	83
Number of defects found	..	..	..	..	—
Number of defects remedied	..	..	..	..	—

REGISTERED SLAUGHTERMEN

..	17
----	----	----	----	----

BAKEHOUSES.

Number on Register	..	..	..	..	11
Number of inspections	..	..	..	..	22
Number of defects found	..	..	..	..	—
Number of defects remedied	..	..	..	..	—

COWSHEDS.

Number of Cowkeepers on Register—Wholesale	..	..	314
Number of Dairies on Register	..	..	202
Number of inspections	..	..	216
Number of defects found	..	..	26
Number of defects remedied	..	..	20

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Number on Register	..	..	..	..	31
Number inspected	31

VARIOUS.

Visits to infected houses	78
Houses disinfected	64

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